

Conservation planning for the Northern Spotted Owl began in 1973 when the bird was given top priority by the newly formed Oregon Endangered Species Task Force. In 1977 the Task Force recommended maintaining 400 pairs on public lands in the state with 300 acres of old forest reserved per pair. Washington (1978) and California (1981) joined in conservation planning efforts. While the acreage reserved per owl pair increased with time, the operative paradigm remained focused on 1–3 pair management units until 1988. In 1989, the Interagency Spotted Owl Scientific Committee was jointly established by the directors of the four federal wildlife/land managing agencies and charged with developing a scientifically credible Northern Spotted Owl management plan. The committee's product provided for a series of 20 pair conservation areas spaced to facilitate dispersal, with intervening "forest matrix" lands managed to provide habitat sufficient to support dispersal. The draft Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan utilizes the same basic construct.

DISPERSAL AND SURVIVAL OF JUVENILE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWLS

MILLER, G. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2600 SE 98th Ave., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97266.* E.D. FORSMAN. *USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, 3200 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 97331.* D.H. JOHNSON. *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 170 NE Vandenberg Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97330-9446*

With the federal listing of the spotted owl as a threatened species, highlighted by the Interagency Scientific Committee's Conservation Strategy for the Northern Spotted Owl and the Spotted Owl Recovery Planning process, the importance of juvenile dispersal information has become much more apparent. Prior to 1982, information on the dispersal ecology of juvenile northern spotted owls was limited. Since that time, three general "sources" of study can be identified that have addressed the dispersal topic. (1) In 1982, radiotelemetry studies, using backpack transmitters, were initiated in Washington, Oregon, and California to gather information on juvenile dispersal. Between 1982 and 1985, 6 juveniles in Washington, 32 in Oregon and 23 in California were followed during dispersal. A summary of first-year survival, distance dispersed, and habitat use is provided. (2) Between 1985 and 1987, intensive banding studies were initiated in Washington, Oregon, and California, providing the opportunity to band several hundred juvenile spotted owls. A summary of dispersal distances and survival estimates obtained from the band return (resighting) data is also provided. (3) In 1991, a new radiotelemetry study, using tail-mounted transmitters, was initiated in Oregon and Washington to provide additional information on juvenile survival estimates. Preliminary results from that study for 1991 and 1992 are reported. A comparison of the three sources of

information is discussed. An overview of how all of the information on juvenile dispersal and survival has been incorporated into the Interagency Scientific Committee's Conservation Strategy for the Northern Spotted Owl and the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Planning process is also discussed.

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL LITIGATION REVIEW

ROWLAND, M.J. *Institute for Environmental Studies, FM-12, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195*

Principal court cases affecting the northern spotted owl will be reviewed. These cases include: *Northern Spotted Owl vs. Hodel*: A suit against the US Fish and Wildlife Service for failure to list the spotted owl under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and failure to designate critical habitat for the owl. The agency was ordered to reconsider its failure to list the owl, and the owl ultimately was listed. The court also ordered the agency to designate critical habitat. *Seattle Audubon Society vs. Robertson*: A suit challenging the US Forest Service's spotted owl management plan for failure to comply with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The court ruled that the Forest Service's plan did not meet the requirements of either law, ordered the agency to prepare another plan, and enjoined further timber sales in spotted owl habitat until a legally adequate plan is in place. *Bureau of Land Management vs. US Fish and Wildlife Service*: A petition by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for an exemption for 44 timber sales in Oregon from the requirements of the ESA. The Endangered Species Committee granted an exemption for 13 of the sales, the first exemption ever granted under the ESA after a full hearing. *Portland Audubon Society vs. Bureau of Land Management*: A suit against the BLM for failure to follow NEPA requirements in managing the spotted owl. The court found that the BLM had violated NEPA and enjoined timber sales in spotted owl habitat pending the agency's compliance with NEPA.

HABITAT USE AND SELECTION BY NORTHERN SPOTTED OWLS

WAGNER, F.F. AND J.A. THRAILKILL. *Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331*

The habitat requirements of the Northern Spotted Owl form the crux of the controversy surrounding its conservation. This paper briefly summarizes habitat use and selection studies from the literature and describes one example in some detail. Habitat use and selection for foraging and roosting have been primarily determined from locations of radio-marked owls. These studies compare proportionate use to proportionate availability at the stand condition (broad seral stage) level. The number of studies